

**SUGGESTED REMARKS**  
**Tyler C. Holt, USAID/P**  
**Dedication of the Community E-Center**  
**at Casa San Miguel in San Antonio, Zambales**  
**October 7, 2006, 1:30 P.M.**

Executive Director Alfonso Bolipata,

Attorney Gigo Alampay,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Afternoon.

On behalf of USAID and the entire U.S. Government, I would like to offer our congratulations to Casa San Miguel for its work in using music and art to benefit the community and its residents. I would particularly like to recognize Executive Director "Coke" Bolipata for his leadership and vision. We are very impressed with how you have successfully been able to draw in both the private sector and

broader civil society to put together this unique cultural haven.

I am told that Casa San Miguel was built on the belief that the arts can be used to reach across boundaries, across cultures, across languages, to draw together the world in closer harmony. I have also noted how Casa San Miguel supports the continued development of the Filipino artist, and so I can think of nothing more fitting and appropriate than for USAID to help Casa San Miguel bring all of this to the entire world, through their new Community e-Center.

With the obvious creativity that resides here, we look forward to seeing you set the example in using this Community e-Center not only as a tool for emailing or research or even just playing games, but also as a window for the rest of the world to look in, see, hear, and enjoy all the gifts and talents that you have to offer.

In just over a year's time, development assistance from the American people has helped to establish twelve Community e-Centers under our Last Mile Initiative Program - three in Luzon, four in the Visayas, and five in Mindanao.

Through the Last Mile Initiative Program, USAID helps bring affordable internet access, facilities and equipment, and software applications to rural areas of the country that have limited access to the world wide web.

The Community e-Centers themselves are as diverse as the communities in which they are situated. They have been used as employment centers, teacher training facilities, tourism promotion and marketing centers, and more.

USAID is very happy that it has been able to work with Casa San Miguel to set up the Community e-Center that now brings the benefits of internet access to this community. We hope it will complement and contribute to your very

important work, and share the cultural assets of the Philippine people with an even wider audience.

So in conclusion, let me say once again what a pleasure and honor it is for me to be here today at Casa San Miguel. I congratulate all of you.

Thank you very much and Mabuhay!